

Message Text

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42

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

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FOR PHELAN

FOLL REPEAT EC BRUSSELS 1435 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LONDON LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME THE
HAGUE GENEVA OECD PARIS 08 MAR 74
QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS1435

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, SN

SUBJ: FRANCE/SINGAPORE TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 36821 (NOTAL)

1. BENJAMIN MEYNELL, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR FOR THE
FAR EAST, INFORMED US ON MARCH 6 IN RESPONSE TO
REFTEL, THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORT ABOUT FRENCH
NEGOTIATIONS WITH SINGAPORE ON TEXTILES IS CORRECT.
HE CONFIDED THAT THIS KIND OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATION
BY SEPARATE MEMBER STATES IS CONTRARY TO THE TREATY
OF ROME AND THE SPIRIT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.
NEVERTHELESS, IT DOES OCCASSIONALLY HAPPEN. IF
QUESTIONED IN PUBLIC THE COMMISSION (AND PROBABLY
THE MEMBER STATES INVOLVED) WOULD NOT ADMIT THAT
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CERTAIN MEMBER STATES WERE CONCLUDING OFFICIAL BILATERAL

TEXTILE AGREEMENTS. MEYNELL SAYS THAT THE MEMBER STATES INVOLVED HAVE NOT CALLED SUCH ARRANGEMENTS "AGREEMENTS" BUT "CONSULTATIONS". THE COMMISSION IS OPPOSED TO THESE INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS BY MEMBER STATES, BUT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO PROHIBIT THEM. MEYNELL SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON. BEFORE MEYNELL'S RETURN THE MISSION WAS UNABLE TO FIND A COMMISSION OFFICIAL WHO WOULD GIVE CLEAR INFORMATION ON THE MATTER. GREENWALD LQUOTE KISSINGER

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